

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-05 OMB-01 CIEP-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /079 W

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R 042233Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5565

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS BOGOTA 9777

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF ALLEGED CIA MACHINATIONS

1. A NEWLY ORGANIZED LEFTIST CLERICAL GROUP, SACERDOTES PARA AMERICA LATINA (SAL, PURPORTING TO REPRESENT 500 COLOMBIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON OCT 31 WHICH DENOUNCED CIA INTERFERENCE IN COLOMBIAN AFFAIRS AND DEMANDED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS CONDUCT A "SEVERE INVESTIGATION". THE STATEMENT REPORTED IN TWO BOGOTA EVENING PAPERS, ALSO CALLED FOR CONTROL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY AND CONSULATES DESCRIBED AS "CIA OPERATION CENTERS", IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. MILITARY OR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL "CAMOUFLAGED" IN THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY, IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF TRAINING OF COLOMBIAN MILITARY IN THE U.S. AND THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF VIGILANCE AND INVESTIGATION OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA.

2. SAL CRITICIZED IN PARTICULAR WHAT IT TERMED CIA PENETRATION IN THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES, THE CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. MAINTAINS A MISSION IN BOGOTA WHICH CONSISTS OF 27 OFFICERS AND 21 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE FOUR SERVICES. COMMENT: TOTAL MILGRP STRENGTH IN COLOMBIA AT PRESENT IS 15 OFFICERS, 6 ENLISTED. END  
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COMMENT

3. THE DOCUMENT CITED A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH OPERATE IN COLOMBIA AS POSSIBLE FRONTS FOR CIA AGENTS, INCLUDING: THE ROCKEFELLER AND FORD FOUNDATIONS, SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES, PROFAMILIA, ASCOFAME, THE PEACE CORPS AND CARE.

4. SAL CALLED ON ALL "POPULAR AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES" TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES AND TO FORWARD DOCUMENTS TO AIR POST OFFICE BOX 52990, BOGOTA.

5. A "ROUND TABLE" OPEN TO THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED BY SAL FOR THE EVENING OF NOV 8 TO DISCUSS "CIA PENETRATION IN COLOMBIA".

6. THE BOGOTA PRESS RECENTLY HAS ALSO CARRIED CARACAS-DATELINED STORIES REPORTING ACCUSATIONS BY VENEZUELAN POLITICIANS THAT THE CIA IS ENCOURAGING A COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN CONFRONTATION ON THE SEABED LIMITS DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

7. PRESS CLIPPINGS ON THE FOREGOING ARE BEING POUCHED TO ARA/NC.

8. THE EMBASSY IS, AT PRESENT, ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN THE COMPOSITION AND BACKGROUND OF SAL. WE DOUBT THAT MEMBERSHIP COULD BE ANYWHERE NEAR THE 500 CITED IN THE PRESS. (ONE CHURCH SOURCE HAS ESTIMATED THAT 15 TO 20 PRIESTS AARE INVOLVED). WE DO NOT HOWEVER EXPECT THAT DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CLAIM AND FACT TO BE A DETERRENT TO FURTHER EXAGGERATED REPORT BY THE BOGOTA TABLOIDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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